

BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1915.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT MUST OWN THE MUNITION PLANTS

THE DISCLOSURES with respect to German influences operating in the munitions market are very interesting. The facts are not other than would be expected, under the circumstances. The European governments would be unexpectedly lax, did they not protect their supplies in this country, upon which they depend to a large extent.

It is fortunate The World has produced evidence necessary to convince the American people of the true state of affairs. It will make them more of a mind in instituting the necessary reforms for the protection of the country.

American citizens, being of many origins and of diverse sympathies, favor this or that nation of Europe. But the American nation is neutral. It desires no evil to any of the belligerents, and has good will toward all.

This being a selfish age, Americans must first look to themselves. Just now, that they must look to their own material of defense. If the United States should be embroiled in a war with Europe, it would find the great war plants chiefly engaged in taking in European money. Some would be working for the Allies and some for the Germans, but none would have the business of the United States first in mind.

Moreover the disposition would be to charge the United States very great sums for comparatively inexpensive material, and the government would be sadly beset for a way through.

There would be the further difficulty that in every ammunition plant would be men high in authority, and some of less authority, of very pronounced European sympathies, so that a condition might sometimes arise in which production would be delayed, or suspended, at critical seasons, and the reasons would be difficult to trace, for they would exist in the interior organization of the private plants.

This conclusion seems reasonably clear. Sound American defense requires government ownership of the chief munitions plants of America.

In case the United States should be involved in war, before the transfer of these plants to government control can be arranged, the first government act would be to commandeer all necessary existing plants, for the purposes of this government alone.

Thus only can the country be protected from the risk that its war materials will be within the partial control of hostile influences.

THINGS THAT SELDOM COME

STORMS SUCH as that which overtook Galveston, are of a magnitude unknown in New England. The nearest thing in recent years in Bridgeport's experience, is the storm of 1906, in which a cloud burst flooded the water sheds above the city, so that the dam at Beardsley Park gave way, and much property damage was sustained. In 1875 a great downfall did much damage in Waterbury.

There is no assurance that at sometime in the future New England may not suffer by the elements more than she has within the historical period.

Nature's maximum manifestations of wrath are widely spaced. There is the biggest storm in ten years, the biggest in 25 years, the biggest in a century, the biggest in a thousand years, a whacker that tops them all.

There is much evidence to show that at intervals of about fifty years a maximum fall of rain descends upon the country about Bridgeport. Bridgeport has not suffered from cyclone. Wallingford was severely done up by a tornado, a few years back. Great wind storms have been uncommon. Yet no one can be quite sure what the future may bring. Small changes make great consequences.

Once all of this part of the world was covered by a sheet of ice. The ice may come back. No one can tell. Just now ice is so scarce, that the ice companies make a fine overcharge for small pieces of it, which brings us to the conclusion that Bridgeport may have its municipal ice plant about the date when another glacial sheet will make the plant entirely unnecessary.

Or, maybe, the wonder of wonders will arrive, a municipal government really devoted to the public weal.

WRECKING THE ROCK ISLAND

THE STORY of Rock Island reads like the story of New Haven. The sad tale has been told of both railroads, by the Interstate Commerce Commission. How the Rock Island was looted is last from the pen of the authors. It is a work that will pay for reading.

This road came into the hands of the Reid-Moore syndicate, under whose management it was looted. When the wrecking operations began the Rock Island was one of the finest railroads in America. Its stock was selling for \$200 a share. It is now selling for \$20 a share.

As in the case of the New Haven, its business and its earnings steadily increased.

There was the same inside control, the same organization of subsidiaries, and the same increase in debt that appeared while the New Haven was being looted. The debt was swelled from \$63,000,000 in 1901 to \$235,000,000 in 1914.

During the management of the syndicate \$20,000,000 was wasted or destroyed. Lavish gifts were made to favored persons. Money and property was wasted in a hundred ways.

In essence the story is an old one. Railroads have been looted after this fashion, for the benefit of a few great families, since railroads began to be operated in the republic. American investors are in the infant class, with respect to indirect robbery. And anybody able to control legislation and silence district attorneys can shear the public as fast as the wool grows.

THE NEW PAVEMENTS

THE NEW PAVEMENTS are nearing completion. They are smooth and comfortable. Most of them are laid on streets which had been permitted to approach the last stages

of decrepitude. This makes the improvement additionally welcome. The tendency of every one who uses them will be to feel pleasure, because the streets are there, and to be grateful because the old conditions no longer exist.

This frame of mind will be natural, but not entirely wise. Wisdom will accept the pavements for what they are, an improvement over what they replace. But wisdom will also reflect that because of sins of the municipal government, this work was done without competition, that it has been made unduly costly, that the future cost of upkeep will be more than it should be, and that more streets could have been improved if the money devoted to paving had been judiciously handled, in accordance with good business principles.

There is no more reason why all the citizens should be satisfied with the use that has been made of the paving money, than that one citizen should be satisfied if an agent brought him back an inferior quality of goods, for more money than should have been paid.

Some streets have been delivered, but they should be better streets, that would last longer, and require less maintenance. And there should be more of them.

ORVILLE WRIGHT, 44 TODAY, WILL HELP UNCLE SAM TO SOAR

Among the distinguished inventors to whom Uncle Sam looks for substantial assistance in case of war, the least is Orville Wright, who, with his brother, the late Wilbur Wright, invented the aeroplane. Orville Wright was born in Dayton, O., still his home, 44 years ago today. He is the son of a bishop, and inherited from his father a deep devotion to the cause of peace, but in the event of war he is ready to take up arms.

Uncle Sam's nose and pull his sacred goose. There is little doubt that Orville Wright would give effective help in avenging the insult. It has been estimated that almost any of the European powers would be willing to pay Mr. Wright an almost fabulous sum for his services, but the United States is the only nation that could enlist his services. With Thomas A. Edison as a submarine expert and Orville Wright as an authority on the aeroplane at his command, Uncle Sam now feels much safer and more confident of his ability to repel possible boarders. Orville is the younger of the two Wright brothers who solved the problem of heavier-than-air flight. The brothers were educated in the public schools of Dayton and upon completing their education set up a bicycle repair shop. In their moments of leisure they devoted their thought to the invention of a flying machine.

Their only idea at first was amusement, and they had no idea of making a flying machine that would really fly. It was not until after accidental tests of the kites that they became afflicted with the "crazy idea" of attaching a motor to the contraption and driving it through the air. After that their Dayton neighbors, who called them "the Wright boys" were mentioned, tapped their foreheads significantly and commiseratingly and remarked, sotto voce, "Nobody home."

Some 10 years ago, however, Orville Wright made a successful long distance flight near Dayton, and the neighbors then uprose and remarked in unison, "I always told you them Wright boys had it in 'em." The French government was the first to perceive the great military value of the Wright invention, and the present war has demonstrated that for scouting purposes the heavier-than-air machine is vastly superior to the Zeppelins and similar craft.

FATHER VAUGHAN.

Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, the militant Jesuit priest of England who volunteered to become a chaplain of the British expeditionary force in France, 18 years ago, is a soldier's son. His father, a soldier's son, his father having been a colonel in the British army, while his brother was the late Cardinal Vaughan. The priest who aroused international interest by his outspoken denunciations of the "sins of society" some years ago has been equally frank in his discussion of the war, with the result that he has brought down upon his head the denunciations of his German brethren of the Society of Jesus. In an official protest issued by the provincial council of the German Province of the Society of Jesus, Father Vaughan was charged with "assessments and implications which must be considered deeply insulting to the head of the German state, the German empire, and the German people."

Father Vaughan has visited America and by his lectures attained a widespread popularity on this side of the Atlantic. Father Vaughan was born on Aug. 26, 1847, and first became prominent as a Jesuit priest in Manchester, laboring among the poor of that great industrial center for 13 years. In 1861 he removed to London, where he soon became known as an energetic and able worker among the poor in Westminster and in the East End. He was a leader in the movement for the erection of clubs for working men. As a lecturer he soon became widely known in America and on the continent as well as in England. In 1906 he began his celebrated series of sermons on "The Sins of Society," which set all London agog. He is the author of many volumes of sermons, one of the latest of his books expressing his views of the war, while another bears the title of "Socialism from the Christian Standpoint." In the latter volume he expresses the opinion that "were we good enough for the Socialist state, we should be good enough to do without it." Father Vaughan objects of socialism on the allegation that "it limits its horizon to the improvement of material conditions, sets up its heaven on earth, and recognizes no morality except self-interest and class hatred."

CATHOLIC EDITORS HOLD CONVENTION AT TOLEDO

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 19.—Members of the Catholic Editors' Association of America began their annual convention here today. It was held in connection with that of the American Federation of Catholic Societies which closed yesterday with the election of officers, and will last until Saturday. The delegates represent 125 Catholic publications.

The question of an official daily Catholic organ, which has been agitated for several years, was up for discussion.

Secretary Daniels ordered the guns at the Navy's L. I. radio station to take additional precaution to prevent any violations of American neutrality.

Women Clerks Now Supplant Men In Bank of England

London, Aug. 19.—The very sanctum of British conservatism, the Bank of England, has been invaded by women clerks. Over 200 of them are now employed in the bank in various forms of clerical work. While it is the war that gave women the opportunity of replacing men of military age, it is also the war that created additional work at the bank through the war loan business.

Women have been employed in the Bank of England in a subordinate capacity since 1889, but they had never before done clerical work. They often put in as much as 12 hours a day.

Other banks, it is stated, now contemplate following the lead of the Bank of England, which, despite its former prejudice against women, has been historically known as the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street.

Favors Gothic To Roman Script As Easier For Eyes

Berlin, Aug. 19.—Although one of the trump-cards of the advocates of the Roman script and print as against the Gothic script and German (Gothic) black-letter has always been the greater legibility of the first named, a German scientist, after a long series of experiments, now announces that the Gothic letter is less tiring to the eye than the Roman.

According to his experiments, an ordinary line of so-called German letters required on the average 8.17 movements of the eye, against 6.11 for Roman letters. The reason is that "the sharper characteristic" of the former make it possible for a single glance to comprehend more. It is stated that it requires 12.4 per cent less time to read a Roman line but the Gothic line regularly contains at least ten per cent more than the former. The eye, however, making less movements for the Gothic, has more rest, and its glance also, moves more smoothly, whereas in reading Latin characters "it moves, trippingly along."

Soldier Now In Trenches Becomes Heir to \$40,000

Paris, Aug. 19.—A French soldier fighting in the Argonne has just inherited an estate valued at \$40,000 from an eccentric retired army officer who died in the trenches. The soldier, who is now in the trenches, is the only condition attached to the legacy is that the soldier must from time to time visit the grave of his benefactor and relate there some of his war experiences. The soldier, who is now in the trenches, is the only condition attached to the legacy is that the soldier must from time to time visit the grave of his benefactor and relate there some of his war experiences.

Noted Gynecologist of Japan Will Visit American Hospitals

Tokio, Aug. 19.—Dr. Sotoku Kinoshita, professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the Imperial University, has been designated by the government to visit the United States to make an extensive tour of study of American hospitals. The visit is viewed by the Japanese as being of great importance to improve her hospitals and to advance in medicine and surgery. She wishes to learn of the achievements in the United States.

A dinner of farewell was arranged by Dr. R. B. Teusler, director of St. Luke's Hospital, who toasted Dr. Kinoshita. The meeting developed the fact that plans are rapidly progressing for the establishment of the proposed international hospital at Tokio.

Cuba Soon Will Have National Militia As Second Defence Line

Havana, Cuba, Aug. 19.—Tentative plans are being formulated for the creation of a National Militia as a second line defense in the event of war. All Cuban citizens of military age, of good repute and capable of passing the regular medical examination, are eligible for enlistment and the organization equipment and armament of the force will be uniform with the regular army.

Officers and men will be required to attend drills twice a week and their arms will be kept in the barracks of the regulars to be issued only for drills or when the militia is called into active service. No estimate has been made as to the probable strength of the force that can be raised. No limitation is placed on the enlistment and it is believed that the service will prove very popular in Havana and the other principal cities.

JAPANESE NAVY IS SCOURING SEAS FOR GERMAN FIGHTERS

Extreme Precaution Taken to Protect the Orient From Merchantmen.

Tokio, Aug. 19.—Owing to persistent reports that armed German merchantmen have been sighted in the South Seas, the Japanese navy has dispatched several fast cruisers to search the waters of the Southern Pacific. Advice from Australia placed one of these Germans in the Eastern Pacific near the neighborhood of the entrance to the Panama Canal where she was supposed to be waiting to prey upon merchantmen of the Allies.

Rear Admiral Suzuki, vice minister of marine, explained the dispatch of warships as a measure of precaution. As a matter of fact, he said the navy scarcely credited the reports, but wanted to make certain that shipping was not imperiled. About 100 German vessels were tied up in various neutral ports in the South Seas. If properly armed, at least thirty of them could do active service as volunteer warships. It was just possible that one or two had escaped.

AN EXPLANATION OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

As explained by an expert in the London Daily Mail, the characteristics of high explosives is their violence and suddenness of their detonation. Water is an explosive when it is heated and when it becomes steam, but the expansion is so slow that explosive results do not usually follow. Unless there is gross negligence. Gunpowder of the old type expands more rapidly than water and produces a large volume of gas, but, again, it acts with comparative gentleness. High explosives on the other hand, pass instantly from a solid or liquid form to gas and act with terrific energy, tearing to pieces any vessel which contains them. To make them act in this manner they usually require a detonator, which applies a violent shock to them and starts the explosion. It is a curious fact that most of the high explosives when lighted with a match burn quite quietly. The experiment is not to be recommended, as accidents will happen, but in 99 cases out of 10 there is no danger. Almost without exception high explosives are composed of some organic substance, which forms some form of carbon treated with nitric acid. Without nitrogen which is the chief ingredient of nitric acid, it might be said that there can be no explosives. Yet by paradox nitrogen is one of the most inert gases known, and the chief ingredient of the air we breathe. Possibly its explosive value arises from this very inertness; it combines so exceedingly reluctantly that on small provocation the compound breaks up into gas, giving the enormous expansion needed for explosive effect.

The most famous modern high explosive and one of the most powerful is Lyddite, which is very similar to the French melinite and the Japanese shimonite. Lyddite is simply picric acid melted with a little vaseline. Picric acid is a yellow, crystalline substance largely used as a yellow dye and also very serviceable in medicine for the treatment of burns. It is intensely poisonous and a powerful explosive. Attention to its value as an explosive was first drawn in England by the destruction of a Lancashire factory where it was being manufactured. About the same date it was independently studied in France, and early in the 30's of the last century it was adopted there for use in shells. Picric acid is prepared from coal tar—the refuse of gas manufacture. When the heavy oil of coal tar is boiled and chemically treated phenol or carbolic acid is separated from it. The carbolic acid is taken, distilled plentifully, and with acid, and into the evil-smelling liquid strong and pure nitric acid is carefully poured. The resultant is picric acid. It has great virtues as an explosive, but also some vices. Its tendency is that it is not easily exploded when pure and dry; that it can be dropped or even thrown about, and it does not act violently when lighted. To make it explode it needs a powerful detonator, which usually contains fulminate of mercury and tetryl. Its chief fault is that it is intensely acid and when moisture is present attacks lead and many other substances forming exceedingly explosive compounds which go off quite unexpectedly.

BROTHERS IN SPORTS HAVE VARIED RECORD

An interesting question for baseball fans to discuss during their leisure is the record of the family grounds, in the reason for the failure—almost absolute—of two brothers attaining success on the diamond at the same time. This condition is true in the majority of sports competitions, and only a few cases can be cited where brothers attained success together.

In baseball this season there are two sets of brothers who are possessed of considerable ability for they are holding down their berths in the major leagues. Bill Killefer of the Philadelphia Nationals and Wade Killefer of the Cincinnati Reds are brothers, and so are Wally Schang of the Athletics and Eddie Schang of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Fritz Meisel has a brother George who is sensation in the New York State League, and who will get a trial with Detroit this fall.

In the old days there were the Tebbels and the Gleasons, then came the Delahantys, Ed, Jim, and Frank, and his brother Josh were in the majors at the same time for a short period when Josh was with Cleveland. Jess Stovall was just going back when brother George came up.

Bobby Roth of the Chicago White Sox has kept the family at the game since his brother Frank dropped out. The Hinchman boys, Bill and Harry, were on the Cleveland club together for a short time.

Farmy fathers have been more numerous. Ty Cobb's brother, Paul, is only a fair minor leaguer. Christy Mathewson's brother, Hank, couldn't make a go of it, and neither could Roger Bresnahan's brother, Joe. Johnny Evers' brother, Joe, is a minor leaguer, and so is Ed Groh, a brother of Heinie, of the Cincinnati Reds. Harry Coveleskie has a brother,

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With these perfectly distracting sweaters and silken sport coats, which appear in stripes of regular line, one must really have a care as to other accessories in dress. Nothing is so prominent as the ubiquitous handbag because it is in constant use. Now there have come some new Silk Bags which are in regular stripes, inch, and half inch widths, black and white, dark blue and white, and green and white, lined exquisitely with flowered Dresden silk, and fitted with purse and mirror. The bag is pouch-shaped with a gate too, and terminates at the bottom in a flaunting tassel of a color to correspond.

\$3.00 the price

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Plain Natural Linen Scarves with hemstitched ends, for every day use and common wear, 18 x 50, at 29 cts

Damask Scarfing by the yard, patterns in snowdrop, maidenhair fern, etc., with borders, at 30, 40 and 45 cts a yd.

Sunshine Biscuits.

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29, 30 and 35 cts a box

"Tom Thumbs" and Arrowroot Biscuits are nice for children.

"Mary Janes" and "Snappy Turtles" are good between meals.

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Sunshine Section in the basement.

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who, he says, is a better natural pitcher than he, but this boy has yet to get above the Pacific Coast League, and another outshining brother, Covey's, never got above a State league in Pennsylvania.

Yean Gregg's younger brother was tried by Cleveland and sent back. Ed. Walsh's brother, looking good for a time, then went to the bushes. The same thing happened to Harry Camnitz, a brother of Howard, who is now with Pittsburgh.

George Tyler, the Boston Brave left-hander, had a brother who was tried by Boston as a catcher and sent back. Fred Smith, brother of Charley, who was with Washington, Boston and the Cubs, did fairly well.

There are a number of fighting families, but it seems only one of each set can get to the top.

Tom Gibbons can't hold a candle to his brother, Mike, and Charley White is a lot better than his brothers, Jack and Charley, the latter fighting under the name of Charley Wagner.

Frankie Conley won the Hamilton-Covey's title, but his two younger brothers never got beyond the preliminaries. Leach Cross is away above his two brothers, and Monte Attell was never as good as Abe.

In many other cases athletes who got to the top had brothers who tried to follow them, but couldn't even break into the newspapers.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

As it has been a poor season at the summer resorts, a good many summer hotels will probably burn down, accidentally in the fall.

At San Francisco they have been holding a convention on Race Betterment, but so far as heard from no hotels has put in cot beds to accommodate the delegates.

The New York Sun is conducting a discussion on the best place to carry a bankroll, but it would be healthier to consider finding a place where the first of the month bills would not get mislaid.

Some people may think that the meeting of the House of Governors decided to go to Boston on account of the historic associations, and other is that Boston has two ball teams.

The fact that your female relatives can carry picnic luncheon baskets two or three miles over a rough road does not mean that they could lug one and a half pounds of

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